

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated July 7, 2011 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 34, 35, 38-40, 44, 54, 57, 59, 66, and 68-71 are allowed. Further, that claims 13 and 48 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 14-15, 17, 46, and 49-50 are amended, and claims 12-13 and 48 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Further, claims 2-11, 18, 22-28, 31, 33, 36-37, 41-43, 45, 47, 52-53, 55-56, 58, and 60-63 were previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 14-17, 19-21, 29-30, 32, 34-35, 38-40, 44, 46, 49-51, 54, 57, 59, and 64-71 are pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 12, 20, 21, 30, 32, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,621,895 to Giese ("Giese").

While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have decided to accept the Examiner's recommendation and have incorporated the features of claims 13 and 48 into claims 1 and 46, respectively.

The application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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